

Commissioners:

On behalf of my local community, I am writing to demand that the proposed changes for Broadcast and Media Ownership are not to be activated until the proposed rules are made available to the general public and elected lawmakers. Furthermore, the rules ought not be activated until there is comprehensive study in the matter by all stakeholders.

As an electronic media and broadcast professional who has worked on projects for major broadcasters as well as smaller stations, and as a representative of the West Contra Costa County Telecommunications Task Force (Northern California), I've been keeping up with this issue and I have serious reservations about the sweeping changes being proposed without a thorough study. Local communities, businesses, advertisers, and cultures will be negatively impacted.

There will be fewer choices available for consumers, the quality of journalism will be compromised as well as the available points of view, and the opportunities for programming focused on the community and local events will be fewer, as is already evident in the case of one local station that has taken affiliation of with major nationwide broadcaster. Furthermore, dollars that fuel the local economies will be diverted to outside of the community. It is not good business to institute these changes.

The FCC is charged with protecting and administering the precious resources that the public airwaves are. I understand that there has been a tremendous response by the public and by lawmakers to put the brakes on these proposed rules. You must concur with the public interest and yield to better judgement.

I look forward with great anticipation on your reply to queries like the one I have made on behalf of my community.

Very Truly Yours,

Clayton J. Leander,  
Contra Costa Telecom Task Force  
West County Representative